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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/804,004	03/19/2004	Makoto Kudo	118768	6984

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. BOX 19928
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EXAMINER

CONNOLLY, MARK A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2115

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/12/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/804,004

Applicant(s)

KUDO, MAKOTO

Examiner

Mark Connolly

Art Unit

2115

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4,6-9 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,5 and 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-11 have been presented for examination.
2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-4, 6-9 and 11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 3-4, 6-9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hadji¹.

5. Referring to claim 1, Hadji teaches the invention substantially including:

- a. a bus interface that controls access to at least one semiconductor storage medium based on request for access to the at least one semiconductor storage medium, the bus interface including dedicated bus interfaces that each correspond to a certain one of the semiconductor storage media [abstract, fig. 2, col. 3 lines 35-39 and col. 4 lines 6-12, 34-43]. In particular, bus interface 108 comprises a plurality buffers 214, 216, 218 and 220 in which each separately interface with a system memory 206 or CPU 102 in addition to data bus 101. The separate interfaces are interpreted as dedicated bus interfaces corresponding to a certain one of the semiconductor storage media (i.e. buffers 214, 216, 218 and 220).

b. a clock-supply-control circuit that controls the presence of the supply of a clock to the bus interface based on access state information that indicates a state of access to the at least one semiconductor storage medium, the clock-supply-control circuit including a circuit, the circuit implementing at least one control for stopping the supply of the clock to the bus interface if the circuit determines that access is not in execution, and control for supplying the clock to the bus interface if the circuit determines that access is in execution, based on the access state information [204 fig. 2, col. 2 lines 22-27 and col. 4 lines 33-43].

Although Hadji teaches the invention as claimed above, there is no teaching that the bus interface controls access to the memory based on a request for access by a bus master. Bus masters are well known in the art and are required to control bus access so that multiple devices (like peripherals 110, 112, 114 and 116 or memory devices 214, 216, 218 and 220) do not attempt to communicate over the same bus (data bus 101) at the same time. It is obvious that the Hadji system comprise a bus master for requesting access to the data bus in order to avoid multiple accesses to the data bus thereby preventing any data corruption which would occur from multiple devices writing to the data bus at the same time.

6. Referring to claim 3, Hadji teaches outputting signals from clock control unit 202 within the bus interface, representative of which clocks to disable [col. 4 lines 33-43]. Each output signal is interpreted as a valid signal.

7. Referring to claims 4, 6-9 and 11, these are rejected on the same basis as set forth hereinabove. Hadji teaches a computer system and therefore inherently teaches an input and output device for receiving, processing and outputting information.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 2, 5 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Connolly whose telephone number is (571) 272-3666. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8AM-5PM (except every first Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas C. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-3667. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Mark Connolly
Examiner
Art Unit 2115

mc
January 3, 2007



CHUN CAO
PRIMARY EXAMINER